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Attorney Docket No. 55684 (70551)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Masahiro Shioi, et al.

Confirmation No.: 6589

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Nicole M. McKinnon

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 1, 2004, Applicant submits the present amendment, which should place the present application in condition for allowance, as discussed herein. In order to keep the present application pending, Applicant has submitted a Notice of Appeal herewith.